



Reasons Humbly Offered by the Persons concerned to the Plantations, against laying a higher Duty on Low Wines made from Molasses, than on Low Wines made from Corn, in a Bill for encouraging the Distilling Brandy from Corn

THE Wealth, Strength and Glory of the King and Kingdom of *England* depends much (under God) upon the Navigation and Foreign Trade.

The Trade with the Plantations in *America*, promotes the Navigation and Revenue of the Crown more than any other.

What therefore is destructive to those Plantations, will be prejudicial to *England*.

The Excessive Customs and Impositions paid on Sugars, have already Impoverished the Plantations, and given great Advantage to the *French*, who have a Free Port to bring their Sugars to, and the *Dutch*, who pay but about 1 per Cent. Custom on Theirs; whereby the Trade of Exporting Sugars Refined in *England* is lost.

And if the Distilling of *Molasses* be discouraged (as by the Bill proposed) not only the Importation thereof from our Plantations will be obstructed, but the value thereof lost to the Planters: The Refiners Trade (in *England*) will be further lessened, and the King's Revenue abated by Exportation of a greater quantity of *Muscovado* Sugar, on which about 3 s. per Cent. is repaid; the *French* and *Dutch* Plantations, and consequently their Trade and Navigation thereby much encreased.

Molasses, whether made here or at the *English* Plantations, are not only the Product of the Kings Dominions, and the Labour and Industry of the Subjects, but are Purchased by the Manufacture and Provisions of *England*; by Exportation whereof, the Revenue is augmented, and many Ships Employed. Every Hundred Weight of *Molasses* made here, pays for Custom and Imposition in *England*, and at the Plantations above 4 s.

There is a Necessity of the sweet Spirits of *Molasses*, or of *French*, or other Foreign Brandy, to make that of Corn palatable: The said Bill will only give those that have Foreign Brandies on their Hands opportunity to raise the Price thereof, and put them upon Importing more by Clandestine Ways, which they are too well acquainted with, which will certainly (if they succeed in this Design) be put in practice by them.

The Plantation-Traders who have *Molasses* in their Hands, and expect more, which cost them four times the usual Freight to bring home, and five times the usual Premio of Insurance, will be Surprized and Impoverished thereby, not being able to sell them for what they stand in, before this Bill was on foot; and if it pass, will probably lose 50 per Cent. by them.

All which being considered, with the very great Losses that have been sustained at Sea since this War with *France*, by the Planters and Merchants Trading that Way; It is humbly hoped, *The Honourable House of Commons* will not pass a Bill that will have such Evil Consequences to the Publick, and be so destructively oppressive to the Petitioners.